

**ROUX** MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Project File  
**FROM:** Michael Ritorto, Roux Associates  
**DATE:** October 20, 2015  
**RE:** Meeting Minutes from Site Visit with Nino Berube  
**PROJECT:** Columbia Falls Aluminum Company RI/FS  
2000 Aluminum Drive  
Columbia Falls, MT

The following memorandum summarizes the minutes from the meeting and site tour with Mr. Nino Berube, which occurred on October 9, 2015 from 8:00 AM to approximately 12:15 PM, at the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) facility in Columbia Falls, Montana. These minutes summarize information provided by Mr. Berube during the meeting/tour that is relevant and pertinent to the Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan. Additional information was provided by Mr. Berube including, but not limited to, his relationship with past CFAC personnel and management, his personal feelings regarding past decision making by CFAC, and his experience as an employee at CFAC. The meeting conversations were recorded and are available in the project file. In addition, Mr. Berube provided additional comments via an email dated October 12, 2015, that is attached to these meeting minutes.

**Meeting Attendees:**

- Mike Cirian (U.S. EPA)
- John Stroiazzo (Glencore)
- Steve Wright (CFAC)
- Michael Ritorto (Roux Associates)
- Nino Berube (Former CFAC employee/Resident of Aluminum City)

**Meeting Notes**

8:15: Mr. Berube and Mike Cirian arrived onsite at CFAC and meeting began in the CFAC conference room. The meeting attendees discussed the purpose of the meeting, and each attendee provided thoughts of what they wanted to get out of the meeting. John Stroiazzo indicated the purpose of the meeting was to receive input from Mr. Berube regarding the RI/FS Work Plan based on his historical knowledge as a former employee at the Site.

8:30: Mr. Berube provided an oral summary of his time as an employee at CFAC, including a brief review of the various positions he had held and his corresponding job responsibilities. Mr. Berube indicated that his employment at CFAC ended in 2003.

8:45: Mr. Berube stated he has eleven concerns that he wanted to bring to the attention of the CFAC team. Mr. Berube provided a copy of the eleven concerns, which are attached to these minutes. Mr. Berube also provided a map with various locations he wanted to visit during the meeting and tour, which are also attached to these minutes.

9:10: The meeting attendees left the CFAC conference room and began touring the site. Mike Ritorto took GPS locations of the various stops throughout the tour. The locations visited are shown on a map attached to these minutes and are numbered in accordance with the information below.

Stop #1 (9:15): Sewage Treatment Plant

- Mr. Berube discussed the sewage treatment technology that was utilized in the treatment plant. Mr. Berube stated the sewage treatment plant started operating in the late 1950s and the technology is outdated as compared to current technologies. Mr. Berube suggested there were times when raw sewage was being passed through the plant.

Stop #2 (9:30): South Percolation Ponds, Outfall 009, and Seep Area

- Mr. Berube showed three copies of photographs from his personal photo library. Mr. Berube indicated he believes one photo shows evidence of a historical seep into the South Percolation Ponds. Based on the photograph, the location of the suggested seep is the north bank of the western most pond. The banks of the pond are currently covered in vegetation.
- Mr. Berube indicated that he believes at times the Flathead River is providing water to the South Percolation Ponds.
- Mr. Berube stated he believes the Seep happens because bedrock or till exists at shallow depths in the subsurface of the Seep Area and water flows on top of the bedrock/till.

Stop #3 (10:00): Production Wells PW-6 and PW-7 near Flathead River

- Mr. Berube discussed his recollection of the operation of the production wells. Mr. Berube indicated that the wells are 700 feet deep and can produce up to two million gallons per day.
- Mr. Berube indicated that the Flathead River flooded the area around Production Wells PW-6 and PW-7 in 1964. He indicated that during the 1964 flood the water level in the river was raised approximately 19 feet.

Stop #4 (10:15): Flathead River near the eastern end of the South Percolation Ponds

- Mr. Berube pointed out concrete floor slabs on the shoreline. Mr. Berube indicated he was told to place them on the shoreline to help shoreline stability.
- Mr. Berube discussed the historical flow path of the river and how it was diverted to build the South Percolation Ponds.

Stop #5 (10:20): Operational loading/unloading area north of Main Plant Area

- Mr. Berube stated cathodes were loaded and unloaded in the operational areas.
- Mr. Berube stated that water used to seep through the basement floor of pot line building #8 and would produce steam when mixed with hot aluminum.

Stop #6 (10:30): South Asbestos Landfill

- Mr. Berube stated that cathodes were staged for a period of time near the South Asbestos Landfill and he believes there is a possibility that cathodes may be buried in the South Asbestos Landfill.

Stop #7 (10:45): Center Landfill/North Leachate Pond/East Landfill Area

- Mr. Berube suggested that the cap of the Center Landfill is not very thick and likely subsided over the years.
- Mike Cirian and Mike Ritorto discussed the wells downgradient of the features in this area which will be used to assess conditions around the features.
- Mr. Berube indicated that the Leachate Ponds were capped in 1989.
- Mr. Berube described his recollection of overland flow of water from Teakettle Mountain and from the North Leachate Pond into the Cedar Creek Drainage Overflow.

Stop #8 (11:00): East side of the Wet Scrubber Sludge Pond/West Landfill

- Mr. Berube stated that he believes that additional historical aerials may exist in addition to what was provided in the RI/FS Work Plan. Steve Wright indicated he has looked for additional aerials in multiple locations and has not found them.
- Mr. Berube stated the wet scrubber sludge pond has very soft ground beneath the surface and contractors should be careful when working on top and if/when digging.
- Mr. Berube stated he witnessed test pitting in the West Landfill. During the test pitting, the pits were filling with water from the bottom of the pits.
- Mr. Berube stated he remembers drums being buried in the south-eastern portion of the West Landfill.
- Mr. Berube stated water next to the West Landfill has a black/red color and a consistency like coffee.
- Mr. Berube stated that oils from the rectifier yard were spread on site roads as a dust control measure.

Stop #9 (11:30): Former residential property (referred to as the Former Delbom Residence)

- Mr. Berube showed the meeting attendees a location where he remembers man-made pits that had once contained oils and other wastes. Mr. Berube showed photographs from his personal photo library of the former pits. Steve Wright stated that CFAC performed cleanup measures in this area around 2002/2003 when Mr. Delbom passed away.

Stop #10 (11:45): North-West Percolation Pond

- Mr. Berube indicated that coal tar pitch and other materials were placed in the North-West Percolation Pond and may have resulted in contaminants entering the groundwater in this area.

12:00: The meeting attendees mobilized back the Main Building to recap the Site tour. John Stroiazzo requested that Mike Ritorto provide meeting minutes to document the items discussed and the locations visited during the tour.

12:15: Meeting was adjourned.